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ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS

Election to the Committee on Natural Resources

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has received the following nomination from the Government of Canada for election to the Committee on Natural Resources: Denis Davis. The candidate's term of office would begin on the date of election. Biographical information on the candidate is set out in the annex below.

Annex

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON DENIS DAVIS (CANADA)

SUMMARY

Senior water resource expert at the international and national level with broad knowledge and directly related experience, including management of Canada's federal water programme. Specialized expertise in resolution of resource management disputes and conflicts, water resource assessment, water policy, ecosystem science, sustainable management of land and water resources, and definition of global, regional and basin scale water and related resource issues.

QUALIFICATIONS

Excellent motivator and team builder with the ability to establish partnerships, and negotiate and resolve complex issues;

Demonstrated capability in managing large, diverse scientific, professional, technical and policy groups and budgets at the national and regional levels;

Extensive experience in resolution of Canada-United States transboundary issues and in management of global water issues at the international level;

Extensive knowledge of the machinery of government, ministerial decision-making processes, and the United Nations system;

Ability to adapt and innovate when facing new challenges and complex issues.

EXPERIENCE

International

World Meteorological Organization:

- Chairman, Working Group on Hydrology, Region IV (Canada, United States, Central America, Caribbean) (1990-present)
- Hydrologic Adviser, Region IV (1990-present)
- Hydrologic Adviser for Canada (1986-1995)
- Member, Committee on Hydrology (1984-1995)

Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation, March 1994: led Canadian delegation

Dublin Conference on Water and the Environment, January 1992: led Canadian delegation

Committee on Natural Resources:

- Vice-Chairman, Water (1994-present)
- Rapporteur (1992-1994)

Canada-Russia Mixed Commission: Chairman, Working Group II, Water Science and Policy (1989-1995)

Middle East Peace Process: Presentation of paper on transboundary resource management (1994)

Co-developer of "global water assessment" (ongoing) and World Water Council concept

Participation in technical exchanges or missions to developing countries on behalf of United Nations agencies or Government of Canada

Canada-United States

International Joint Commission:

- Canadian Chairman, Water Quality Board for Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (1992-present)
- Canadian Chairman, International Souris-Red River Engineering Board (1978-1986)
- Canadian Chairman, Souris River Board of Control (1978-1986)
- Canadian Chairman, Red River Pollution Board (1980-1986)
- Accredited Officer of Her Majesty, St. Mary-Milk River Treaty (1978-1986)
- Canadian Chairman, Poplar River Apportionment Task Force (1974-1976)

Government Bilateral:

- Canadian Chairman, Poplar River Monitoring Group (1977-1986)
- Member, Garrison Diversion Consultative Committee (1986-1995)
- Canadian Chairman, Garrison Diversion Technical Committee (1980-1986)

- Numerous intergovernmental issue groups dealing with Columbia River Treaty, Niagara River Treaty, Rafferty-Alameda Project, biota transfer etc. (1978-1995)

Federal-Provincial

Prairie Provinces Water Board: Chairman or Alternate (1977-1991)

ENVIRONMENT CANADA

1993-1995 Director-General, Corporate, Environmental Protection Service. Responsible to Assistant Deputy Minister for staff advice and issues management at service/departmental level. Led management of human resources and restructuring activity during period of downsizing and rapid change. Participated as member of team defining "Environmental Protection - 2000" and departmental activities associated with environmental sustainability and sustainable development. Continued departmental level responsibility for international freshwater issues and liaison with International Joint Commission. Retired from government service in June 1995.

1986-1993 Director-General, Inland Waters and Lands, Conservation and Protection Service.
Responsible for policy development and strategies from the national perspective for Canada's inland waters and lands resources; management and direction of water planning, quality, quantity, sediment, snow- and ice-monitoring programmes, and water resources research programmes throughout Canada. Also responsible for departmental environmental assessment and environmental emergencies programmes. Responsible for development of the Federal Water Policy (approved by Cabinet in 1987), full implementation of the Flood Damage Reduction Programme and over 30 federal-provincial agreements under the Canada Water Act. Provided expert advice to senior levels in the department, and other federal departments and participated in numerous interjurisdictional board or committee activities.

1978-1985 Regional Director, Western and Northern Region, Inland Waters Directorate.
Responsible for federal water programmes within Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories for enhancement of water quality and water resources management. Included water quantity and water quality monitoring programmes, water resource planning, basin studies and federal-provincial implementation programmes under the Canada Water Act.

Served on many federal-provincial and Canada-United States committees related to water resource management and conflict resolution.

1970-1978 Regional Chief, Water Resources Branch, Inland Waters Directorate, Regina.
Responsible for management of all Water Resources Branch water quantity monitoring, sediment, studies and water resources data programmes in Saskatchewan. Established the Saskatchewan Regional Office from small sub-components and developed an integrated, highly influential Saskatchewan Region.

1965-1970 Assistant Regional Chief, Water Resources Branch, Inland Waters Directorate, Calgary.
Responsible for management and administration of the Water Resources Branch programmes in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Special involvement in hydrometric network planning, hydrologic investigations and programmes under the UNESCO International Hydrological Decade.

1961-1965 Various positions, Water Resources Branch, Inland Waters Directorate, Calgary.
Supervised or participated in water quality monitoring sediment, snow and glacier studies, and watershed research programmes in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Participated in regional headquarters joint hydrologic investigations with a special focus on integrated network design.

PERSONAL DATA

Born 1939, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Married, two children

EDUCATION

B.Sc., Civil Engineering, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1961

M.Eng., Water Resources Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, 1965